

(b) the amount spent thereon during above period;

(c) whether a large number of lifting barriers have not been functioning in different parts of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken to make these barriers operational?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No. of lifting barriers implanted throughout the country across level crossing during last three years and amount spent zone-wise is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Number	Amount Spent	
CR	81	105.09 lakhs
ER	9	33.89 lakhs
NR	82	139.95 lakhs
NER	235	263.25 lakhs
NFR	10	23.27 lakhs
SR	123	183.10 lakhs
SCR	98	136.95 lakhs
SER	0	00
WR	45	71.00 lakhs
Total	683	956.50 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise

Post Offices in H.P. and J & K

3702. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, which do not have Branch Post Offices, District-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide postal facilities in Gram Panchayats in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) The number of Branch Post Offices

sanctioned and opened in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in 1995-96 is nil and in 1996-97 district-wise as under:

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Branch Post Offices sanctioned	No. of Branch Post Offices opened
HIMACHAL PRADESH :			
1.	Hamirpur	2	2
2.	Kullu	1	1
3.	Kangra	7	7
4.	Lahul & Spiti	2	2
5.	Mandi	7	7
6.	Shimla	2	2
7.	Solan	1	1
8.	Sirmour	1	1

JAMMU & KASHMIR : NIL

(b) No. of Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices district-wise is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Gram Panchayats
1.	Anantnag	9
2.	Badgam	14
3.	Baramulla	13
4.	Doda	2
5.	Jammu	106
6.	Kargil	13
7.	Kathua	5
8.	Leh	13
9.	Kupwara	21
10.	Poonch	15
11.	Pulwama	4
12.	Rajouri	12
13.	Srinagar	12
14.	Udhampur	7
Total :		246

(c) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to availability of resources and targets.

Funds Allocation to Orissa for Rural Sanitation

3703. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to Orissa under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till date indicating the amount actually utilized by the State Government so far;

(b) whether the State Government has sought additional allocation under the said programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YARRANNAIDU) : (a) The allocation of funds under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme to Orissa and the expenditure during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1996-97	241.00	302.60
1997-98	451.17	Nil

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Road-under Bridge at Hubli

3704. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to construct road under bridge near Ashok Nagar level crossing at Hubli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps taken to expedite above project ; and

(d) the time by which above bridge is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work has already been sanctioned and detailed estimate has been prepared. Estimate for approaches is awaited from the Municipal Corporation of Hubli - Dharwad.

(d) Work will be taken up when necessary funds are made available by Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation.

[Translation]

Broadcast of Modern Technique in Agriculture Sector

3705. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive scheme for broadcast of the information regarding obtaining maximum yield by using modern technique and scientific method in agriculture sector and with a view to earning more profit through food processing and removing unemployment thereby;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) All AIR Stations have already fixed time slots every day for dissemination of information regarding modern techniques and Scientific methods of agriculture and the benefits they entail. These programmes are broadcast in local languages/dialects. In the recent years, special programmes called "Farm Schools" have been introduced over All India radio. These programmes are planned in collaboration with experts from agriculture Universities with active participation of listeners.

[English]

Modernisation of Indian Railways

3706. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for modernisation of Indian Railways during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fund spent thereon during above period zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to draw any long term programme to modernise Indian Railways ; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of Railway system is an on-going process. In this regard Ministry of Railways has undertaken various steps indicated as under:

(i) Computerisation & information system

1. Automated reservation status enquiry through Interactive Voice Response System.
2. Reservation Availability Position Information Display (RAPID)
3. Networking of the five main computer systems,